

# NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management  
1800 Marquess St. • Las Cruces, NM 88005  
Alan Ables, Public Affairs Officer • 505/525-4488

---

**For Immediate Release**  
June 17, 2002 • fro0617.rel

**For Additional Information**  
Rodger Vorce, 505/838-1268

## **BLM-Socorro Issues Fire and Smoking Restrictions**

SOCORRO – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has issued a Fire Restriction Order for BLM-managed public land in Socorro and Catron Counties, according to Kate Padilla, BLM-Socorro field office manager.

The restrictions, effective June 13 until further notice, prohibit:

- burning of solid fuels, except in designated campgrounds or developed recreation sites or when authorized by permit;
- smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building or tent;
- using an explosive requiring fuse blasting caps;
- operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrester and without a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight and one round point shovel, and
- welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame, except within an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials at least 10 feet on all sides from the equipment.

“The restrictions are necessary because of the extreme fire danger from the prolonged hot and dry weather conditions,” according to Rodger Vorce, BLM-Socorro fire management officer.

Firefighters and persons with permits authorizing the otherwise prohibited acts are exempt from the order. Violators may be fined or imprisoned. Additional information about the order is available by calling Vorce at 505/838-1268 or Matt Wohlberg, Socorro field office ranger, at 505/838-1254.